

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NATO 05474 161942Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4259
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 05474

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, ASEC
SUBJECT: DOWNGRADING PROGRAM: DOCUMENTS CONCERNING
DEFENSE PLANNING

REF: (A) EXS/76/89, (B) 76 USNATO 6870 (DTG 151812Z DEC 76)
(C) STATE 58885 (DTG 162344Z MAR 77)

1. SEKERIS, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF NATO, ISSUED IN DECEMBER A LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR DOWNGRADING (REF A), CONCERNING DEFENSE PLANNING ISSUED BY THE COUNCIL/DPC AND CERTAIN COMMITTEES BETWEEN 1952 AND 1965 INCLUSIVE, AND BY THE ANNUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (AC/19) AND WORKING GROUP ON ANNUAL REVIEW PROCEDURE (AC/39) UP TO THEIR DISBANDMENT IN 1967 AND 1966 RESPECTIVELY. IN GENERAL, SEKERIS RECOMMENDS THAT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BETWEEN 1952 AND 1960 INCLUSIVE BE DOWNGRADED TO NATO UNCLASSIFIED WHILE MOST DOCUMENTS ISSUED BETWEEN 1961 AND 1967 INCLUSIVE BE DOWNGRADED TO NATO RESTRICTED.

2. DE GAYE, SECRETARY OF THE DRC, HAS REVIEWED THE LIST AND CONCURS WITH THE PROPOSED DOWNGRADING ON THE GROUNDS OF THE DOCUMENTS' AGE AND CONTENT.

3. THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO
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REVIEW THE DOCUMENTS TO DETERMINE IF ANY OF THEM SHOULD, FOR MILITARY REASONS, RETAIN A HIGHER CLASSIFICATION THAN THAT RECOMMENDED BY SEKERIS. THE RESULTS OF THE NMA REVIEW WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 30 JUNE.

4. COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REVIEW THE LISTS WITH SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OF THE POLICY ASPECTS OF THE DOCU-

MENTS.

5. WE HAVE REVIEWED A SAMPLING OF DOCUMENTS FROM EACH SECTION OF REF A TO DETERMINE THE SUBSTANCE OF EACH GROUP OF DOCUMENTS AND TO EVALUATE THE APPROPRIATE CLASSIFICATION. WE DID NOT REVIEW COUNTRY REPLIES TO THE ARQ (PREDECESSOR TO THE DPQ) OR TO COUNTRY CHAPTERS IN THE ANNUAL REVIEWS, EXCEPT FOR THE US, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT EACH COUNTRY IS BEST QUALIFIED TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE CLASSIFICATION FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING ITS FORCES. WE NOTE THAT SEKERIS' PROPOSAL IS GENERALLY IN LINE WITH THE US GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE.

6. BASED ON OUR REVIEW AND CONTINGENT ON THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEWS OF THE NMA AND NATIONAL REVIEWS, WE RECOMMEND THE US AGREE TO THE DOWNGRADING SUGGESTED BY SEKERIS, EXCEPT FOR CM(61)104, WHICH IS CURRENTLY CLASSIFIED CTS LIMITED DISTRIBUTION. THIS DOCUMENT DISCUSSES THE CRITERIA AND EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS DURING THE BERLIN CRISIS OF 1961. WE BELIEVE THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE DOWNGRADED NO LOWER THAN A NATO SECRET CLASSIFICATION.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: BY JUNE 30, WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE TO AGREE TO RECOMMENDATIONS IN REF A (SUBJECT TO ANY RESERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE NMAS), EXCEPT FOR CM(61)104, WHICH SHOULD BE DOWNGRADED NO LOWER THAN NATO SECRET. STREATOR

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